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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/751,435	PRAKKEN, NICOLAAS MARTIN	
	Examiner John R. Paradiso	Art Unit 3721	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/15/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8.
3. The drawings filed on 06 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 3/15/2005 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art could not alone or in combination anticipate or make obvious a method for filling a box with flexible bags in which a first group of a single row of equally spaced bags is lifted by suction and lowered into a cassette, another group is thus lowered into the cassette to form a side-by-side group of bags, then the two side-by-side groups of bags are pushed horizontally from the case into a box; or an apparatus for performing this method comprising a transferal means for transferring groups of bags from a conveyor to a cassette, the cassette having a closable insertion opening on top, a stationary bottom, a displaceable side wall with a pusher plate, and an opposed side wall that allows passage of the group of bags from the cassette into a box.

The most pertinent prior art, GOODMAN ET AL, discloses a method and apparatus for filling a box with bags, but does not disclose transferring the bags from a single row into two side-by-side stacks or a cassette into which the bags are lowered having an open top and a pusher that moves the bags horizontally from the cassette into a box. Likewise VAN DAM discloses a method and apparatus for filling a box with bags, but does not disclose transferring the bags from

a single row into two side-by-side stacks or a cassette into which the bags are lowered having a stationary bottom, an open top, and a pusher that moves the bags horizontally from the cassette into a box.

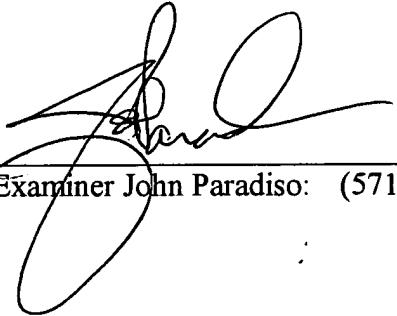
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Paradiso. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 9:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada, can be reached at the number listed below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Technology Center Receptionist.


Examiner John Paradiso: (571) 272-4466

May 31, 2005